TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 8, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 3 totaled an estimated 19.7 billion ton-miles, 11.0 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 40 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 703.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 4.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended October 3 were the highest so far this year, for the second straight week. Carloadings totaled 449,658, up 11.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year and 0.7 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 10.7 percent in the East and up 12.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 19 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal increased by 11,163 cars (9.8 percent), while metallic ores showed a gain of 6,356 cars (39.8 percent). Fourteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 26 totaled 108,454 trailers and/or containers, 2.3 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 39 weeks of the year was 3,809,813 trailers and/or containers, up 3.1 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/3/87:

	Loadings in Week ended October 3, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	35,121	I	4,869	16.1	I	205	0.6
Other farm products	3,947	I	100	2.6	D	228	5.5
Metallic ores	22,326	I	6,356	39.8	I	709	3.3
Coal	124,502	I	11,163	9.8	D	209	0.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,174	I	2,975	19.6	I	292	1.6
Nonmetallic minerals	10,173	I	791	8.4	D	433	4.1
Grain mill products	11,460	I	854	8.1	I	154	1.4
Food and kindred products	12,036	I	649	5.7	I	254	2.2
Primary forest products	11,322	I	746	7.1	I	116	1.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,452	I	523	6.6	I	13	0.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,271	I	785	6.3	I	840	6.8
Chemicals and allied products	27,532	I	2,725	11.0	I	323	1.2
Petroleum products	4,404	I	64	1.5	D	589	11.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,774	I	1,380	13.3	I	119	1.0
Coke	5,385	I	1,500	38.6	I	317	6.3
Metals and products	10,841	I	2,936	37.1	I	768	7.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,746	I	584	2.9	I	1,009	5.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,698	I	2,075	27.2	D	71	0.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,340	D	522	13.5	I	248	8.0
All other carloads	85,154	I	6,199	7.9	D	546	0.6
Total Cars Loaded	449,658	I	46,752	11.6	I	3,291	0.7
Corresponding week of 1986	402,906						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (40 weeks)	15,838,720	15,193,522	I 4.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
39 Weeks ended September 26	683.7	652.9	I 4.7
Week ended October 3	19.7	17.7	I 11.0
40 Weeks cumulative	703.4	670.6	I 4.9

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